

Wisconsin Home for Veterans  
216 Bragg ~~House~~ (House)  
King  
Waupaca County  
Wisconsin

HABS No. WI-323-C

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Building Survey  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225

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WISCONSIN HOME FOR VETERANS, ~~COMPLEX~~  
216 Bragg Avenue (House)  
HABS No. WI-323-G  
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Location: 216 Bragg Avenue, King, Waupaca County, Wisconsin.

Significance: The staff residence at 216 Bragg Avenue is significant because it architecturally and historically contributes to the Veterans Cottages Historic District, a historic district that is part of the Historic Resources of the Wisconsin Veterans Home, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. For a more detailed discussion of the significance of the resources discussed in this report, see page 1 of the overview history narrative.

Description: This staff residence is a two-story building with an irregular plan and a large two-story addition at the rear of the house. The building has an intersecting hip and gable roof covered with green asphalt shingles. The building has a concrete block foundation, and a small, enclosed front porch. The roof of the front porch slopes down, creating a half-pediment on the east side. Under the eaves is a denticulatd molding. The building measures 23 feet, 3 inches on the front and back walls, and 48 feet, 3 inches on the side walls. The house is covered with clapboard siding with a narrow, wooden belt course that delineates the first and second floors. The window on the second floor in the front wall is decorated with vertical boards, square panels in a fanburst design, and some very narrow clapboards. The windows are mostly two-over-two light double-hung sashes decorated with thin cornice lintels. The windows in the front porch are the same. (See photograph WI-323-G-1)

There is a two-story jerkinhead-roofed projection on the west wall. Projecting from this ell is a one-story shallow, square bay with a sloping hipped roof hood, brackets, and two sash windows. (See photograph WI-323-G-2) A similar ell projects from the east wall, but it does not have the bay. The rear addition extends over a raised foundation at the rear of the house. A hipped-roof dormer projects from the main roof and there is a small enclosure covering the rear entrance. A long wooden staircase leads to this enclosure from the paved parking area behind the rear foundation walls. (See photograph WI-323-G-3)

A wood panel and glass entry door leads to the interior of the residence. The first floor interior is divided into several spaces. To the right of the small foyer is a combination living-dining room. The original house probably had a small living room and dining room. The rear addition created a larger dining room that was later combined with the living room. Behind the living-dining room is a sun porch. (See photograph WI-323-G-4)

To the left of the foyer is the main staircase made up of square newel posts painted white, and a thin, square post balustrade, painted white, with a walnut banister. Behind the main staircase is the stairs to the basement. Behind this is a room currently used as a study or office. Behind this room is a small bathroom. Behind the bathroom is a kitchen and the rear porch. Most of the wood flooring is carpeted or tiled on the first floor. The main staircase leads to the second floor. Off of a main hallway are five bedrooms and a large bathroom. Carpeting covers most of the maple floors on this story. The basement consists of one large room with a concrete floor.

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The wall and ceiling finishes in the interior of the house are plaster. The wood paneled interior doors have simple brass doorknobs, plates, and hinges. The doors and windows are trimmed with simple moldings that are painted. Hardware on the doors consists of simple brass doorknobs, plates, and hinges. There are steam radiators that provide heat from the central heating plant. There are standard overhead lighting fixtures in the rooms, and standard plumbing fixtures in the kitchen, toilet, and bathroom. This staff residence is currently occupied by a Veterans Home staff member and his family.

History: This staff residence was built around 1900. There are no plans or drawings that indicate it was designed by an architect; however, there is the possibility it was the work of William Waters, who designed a prototype cottage and the Commandant's residence. However, Waters embellished these designs with Shingle Style details, and this simple Queen Anne-influenced house is rather plain. In any event, it is more elaborate than other buildings in the Veterans Cottages Historic District, and was probably built for a high-ranking staff member of the home. For additional information about the history and architecture of this and all cottages and staff residences at the Wisconsin Home for Veterans Complex, see pages 3-12 of the overview history and architecture narrative.

Sources: Sources for the information on this individual structure narrative are the same as those listed in the overview narrative on page 16.

Historian: Carol Lohry Cartwright, Historic Preservation Consultant, June 1, 1991.